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January 21-24, 2016
Metro Toronto
Convention Centre

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DESIGN BY **JACKIE GLASS**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
PAUL CHMIELOWIEC



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merry little CHRISTMAS

Christmas can feel overwhelming and, to many, the hustle and bustle is just a nice way of saying stress.

More and more I hear about people saying “to heck with it” and booking holidays so they can be away from it all. Or perhaps taking stands like shutting down gift-giving traditions; not bothering to send cards or put up lights; picking up gift cards instead of shopping for a gift.

Christmas and I have definitely had our moments. I keep a journal, and some years my notes are pretty emphatic: “Never make gingerbread men again!!” “Start earlier!!”

But in many ways I’ve also managed to hone my Christmas down to the things that truly make it special for us. I’m just not willing to throw out the baby with the bathwater and so I choose selectively and dig in my heels on the things that make our Christmas...well, Christmas.

My goal is not necessarily to make it impressive or expensive (admittedly, that’s a tough one to avoid) but to make it special, make it memorable, and to pay homage to traditions. They aren’t big things but they turn the holidays from matte to gloss for me—from everyday to sparkly. I mean, what’s the point of having silverware if we don’t polish it and admire the shine every so often?

Here are some of my practices to create a special cobistyle Christmas:

- Set the table with grandma’s china (at least one course) even if it has to be hand-washed and, yes, polish the silver in early December and use it often.
- Serve the biggest shrimp cocktail you can find with individual crystal bowls—but no shrimp rings allowed on Christmas Day.
- Make sure Santa brings everyone a surprise NOT on their list and NOT pre-discussed, or purchased after Christmas because of price. Surprises are fun at any age.
- It takes me a full weekend to decorate our house. I know



that now and so I plan for it rather than think I can squeeze it in between things. I also do it earlier than I used to so that it feels worth it—to do that much work and feel like I have to turn around and take it all down in two weeks just feels like a rip-off.

- Serve champagne in proper flutes or saucers a few times over the holidays or make a special cocktail. It feels festive to serve something other than the usual beer and wine.
- Our family card is a tradition I curse but cannot break. I now vow to get it made in November so it isn’t a panic. Then in December, set myself up in front of a fire with the Christmas tree lights with the music on and enjoy the holiday-decorated house as I work on them.
- I’m not the greatest baker. I admit that freely and don’t worry about Christmas baking anymore. We’re always inundated with lovely sweet treats anyway. And if a recipe really intrigues me and I have the time, I make it but I feel no pressure if I don’t.

I encourage you not to let the hype of Christmas turn you off. Find the things to create your own merry little Christmas and take back the enjoyment that’s meant to be. ♦

COBI LADNER
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

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A Trudeau Platinum Edition design, the Elite wine aerator is stylish and streamlined with optimal functionality. It offers the equivalent effect to 30 minutes in a traditional decanter. The dripless Tritan spout with high-grade stainless steel accent attaches to the wine bottle and works easily with just one hand. It also comes with an attractive base for display and storage. \$29.99

The new Oxygen collection of quality stemware has a distinctive swirl pattern that is created by the embossed ridges formed on the interior of the glass that effectively amplifies wine quality for better oxygenation without the need for decanting. The design is meant to enhance qualities and finesse of a wine while the larger opening of the glass allows aromas to develop. \$20.99 for box set of 2 wine glasses (available in 3 sizes).

To enter, email editorial.contest@renoanddecor.com by January 31, 2016, and your name will be entered for a chance to win the Elite Aerator and two sets of Oxygen stemware by Trudeau, approximately \$75. One entry per person, per issue. Include your full name, address and daytime phone number to be eligible to win. Open to Canadian residents only, aged 18 and over. No purchase necessary. Winner agrees to have their name published in an upcoming issue.

The winner of the Aug/Sept giveaway, a colourful deck chair from Bloom Field Gardens, is Josie M. from Whitby.

Congratulations Josie!

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Sharps' Microwave Drawer Ovens offer advanced cooking performance, including even cook technology, auto defrost and sensor cook options to bring even greater convenience to the kitchen.

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TORONTO'S DESIGN COMMUNITY GATHERED FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

The Chair Affair is Furniture Bank's annual auction-based gala and fundraiser where prominent artists and designers team up to reimagine, redesign and repurpose old chairs for auction. The gala took place on October 30 and it was an evening of fun, food and drinks, where furniture lovers in the community joined together to raise funds and help clients find warmth and stability in their new homes.

By way of online voting, 25 out of 40 chairs were selected for the auction. Some of our R&D contributors donated their time and talent to this worthy cause. Have a look at some of their creations. For more information about Furniture Bank and Chair Affair, visit furniturebank.org



Evelyn Eshun: Understated glamour using my favourite colour to create a design that is traditional in its style, yet contemporary in its expression.



Glen Peloso & Jamie Alexander: With the help of Jo-Ann Fabrics and Vienna Upholstery we revived and re-imagined this chair with a warm-grey velvet interior and a striped exterior, making it perfect to float in a room and look beautiful from all angles.



IDS TURNS 18

Toronto's Interior Design Show returns for its 18th year, showcasing hot-topic design trends and the most innovative of international and Canadian design. Every year, IDS boasts over 300 exhibitions on the floor, spanning 14 industries, including carpet and flooring, furniture, lighting, accessories, windows and doors, kitchens and baths, and more. Also unique to IDS is Studio North, a curated collection of emerging practitioners on the Canadian design scene presented by Designboom. This year, along with many other design talents, speaking appearances are scheduled for UK-based designer Lee Broom and French designer Ora-ïto. From January 21 to 24, 2016, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. interiordesignshow.com

{ HOLIDAY TRADITIONS START AT SEASONS }

Shop, taste and experience the best the holiday season has to offer at the 11th Annual Seasons Christmas Show. Naturally, sampling some fabulous holiday treats is a must. Also included in the cost of admission, guest appearances by popular TV celebrities, experts offering innovative and inspiring tips, advice and ideas, as well as How To Workshops.

Free parking, parcel check and complimentary show guide. From November 20 to 22 at the International Centre in Mississauga, Ont. seasonsshow.com



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Hints of Holiday

Whether you are dressing your home up for the holidays or adding those much-needed accessories to complete a space, these picks take your interiors to the finish line in style

BY SILVANA LONGO

Prep for party season and dress your home like you dress yourself. Try couture-inspired pieces with glam touches like lustre velvet, LED lights, merry mercury and faux fur. Porcelain Cityscape \$12 - \$22, Luster Glass Hurricanes \$12 - \$49, Brass Reindeer \$79, Gold Deer Snow Globe \$29, Jingle Velvet Stocking \$76, Luster Velvet Stocking \$36 westelm.com

COOL COPPER ICE BUCKET

Bring the warmth and lustre of copper to your bar with this elegant ice bucket, handcrafted by highly skilled coppersmiths who use traditional techniques to shape the solid copper. They then hand-hammer the exterior and polish it to a brilliant finish. Topped with a stainless steel lid, the bucket has a watertight, tin-plated lining that ensures food-safe contact with the ice. Hammered Copper Ice Bucket with Lid, \$156; williams-sonoma.com



A GLITZY START TO TABLE SETTING

Aside from studying French culinary arts or visiting a Michelin-rated restaurant, the best way to glam up a meal is by adding a sparkly placemat. This handcrafted stunner features an intricate, radial pattern of golden beads that's both visually and texturally exciting. Gold Beaded Placemat, \$26.95; pier1.ca



Holiday Helpers

DEER COCKTAIL HOUR, HOW I ADORE YOU...

Enliven the home bar with this whimsical wildlife-inspired glassware. Stag Martini Glass, set of 2 \$86; online only at potterybarn.com



DRINKS...CHECK

Add a touch of flare to any gathering with these stylish lowball glasses. Elegant and versatile, they feature a metallic gold-checked pattern that makes them perfect for both entertaining and everyday sipping. If you're a giver, this set of four glasses comes beautifully boxed for impressive gifting. Harvest Lowball Glasses, \$40; chapters.indigo.ca



EM'S
PICK



EMILIE SIMPSON
ART DIRECTOR

TEA TIME

Pinkies up! This cup and saucer are finished with a richly hued glaze and trimmed in luminous gold. Its classic shape with elongated handle elevates your everyday cup. If you like sets, pair it with the Gilded Teapot for a perfect tea party. Gilded Teacup and Saucer, set of 4, \$95; chapters.indigo.ca

GRAND HOTEL

Inspired by place settings of old hotels, West Elm collaborated with the iconic New York city home store, Fishs Eddy to create this serveware collection. Fishs Eddy Gilded Serveware, \$10 - \$84; westelm.com



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DECORATIVE DISPLAY

These oval bowls are made of solid brass, which is characteristically soft enough to permit the artisan to hand-shape it after it has been hammered almost paper thin. The shape combined with the highly polished nickel exterior and the polished brass interior make this jewelry for the home. Oval Centerpiece, \$355; elte.com



MOSTLY MOSAIC

Take the textured look to a new level with the teardrop vase, handcrafted of beautiful light green glass. It's striking on its own and equally eye-catching when filled with beautiful botanicals. Glacier Mosaic Teardrop Vase, \$39.95; pier1.ca



Seasonal Touches

FESTIVE FEAST

The party begins with delectable appetizers! Serve them up on these pretty plates. Set of 4 Appetizer Plates, \$12.99; homesense.ca



AURA OF THE SEASON

This must-have candle features a beautiful embossed lid with a hangtag identifying the fragrance. Seductive cedarwood and smoke accords blend with heady patchouli leaves and warm vanilla. Crafted with the finest blend of waxes with three cotton wicks. A lengthy glow with a 20-hour burn time. Woodfire 3-Wick Metallic Knob Tin, \$29; chapters.indigo.ca



A TOUCH OF GLASS

You know it is a holiday party when the ornaments make their way from the tree to the bowl. Turkish Glass Bowl, \$12.99; Assorted Ornaments from \$6.99; homesense.ca



OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

This vintage-inspired trim shines bright with a dusting of glitter. Drape it around a holiday tree or along the mantel for a festive glow. Glitter Light Bulb Garland, \$32; potterybarn.com



THE GREAT
INDOORS

LET'S TAKE IT INSIDE

Family, friends and good food, the great indoors has it all. This whimsical lumbar pillow cover features lovely crewel embroidery against a natural background. A concealed zipper ensures easy care. Insert not included. The Great Indoors Pillow Cover, \$34.50; chapters.indigo.ca



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◀ MIRROR, MIRROR

A classic and sophisticated addition to your bedroom vanity, keep your jewelry at-the-ready in style with this mirrored jewelry box. Multi-functional, it even makes a perfect desk-side companion at the office for paperclips, push-pins and other small conveniences. Faceted Mirror Jewelry Box Copper, \$49.50; chapters.indigo.ca



Finishing Touches for all Seasons



◀ ROOM FOR TWO

The sleek and sculptural Martini Side Table gets an update in a variety of two-tone finishes. Made from cast aluminum, it's as cool and crisp as its namesake cocktail. Martini Two-Tone Side Table, \$179; westelm.com



SILVANA LONGO
MANAGING EDITOR



◀ WALL COUTURE

Just because every woman needs a fancy strapless gown and because I love her, this print dresses up a wall fabulously. Lady in Blue Artwork, \$149.99; homesense.ca



▲ MERRY MULTI-USE

These cut-glass vessels shimmer gracefully when used as either vases or hurricanes. Clear 5"Dx6" \$40, Turquoise 5"Dx13" \$60, Purple 7"Dx8" \$65; cobistyle.com

COASTER CRAZY

Okay, I admit it, coasters are my thing... every home should have a variety of beautiful coasters that dress up your drink and protect your surfaces. I have so many that when I come across a set that catches my eye, I pick them up for my friends. I always say, like a party—when it comes to coasters—the more the merrier!

Silvana Longo, Managing Editor



- 1 Set of 6 Areaware Table Tiles Coasters, \$24; shop.ago.net
- 2 Set of 6 Hammerstone Coasters, \$145; elte.com
- 3 Set of 4 Quartz Coasters, \$7.99; High Ball Glass with Metallic Detail, \$5.99; homesense.ca
- 4 Set of 4 Coasters from Kate Spade New York, \$25; thebay.com
- 5 Set of 4 Marble Coasters - Black and Wood, \$24.50; chapters.indigo.ca



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THE DISTILLERY DISTRICT

Oh, the story they'd tell if these cobbles could talk



VICKY SANDERSON



Dozens of shops, eateries, galleries, and performance venues are open year-round.



Tourists and Torontonians enjoy the magical holiday atmosphere at the Distillery District's Christmas Market.



Beautiful handmade beds are on display at Hästens.

When English immigrant James Worts opened a grist mill at the foot of the Don River in 1831, he probably didn't anticipate that bumper grain harvests would lead the family business to add a distillery some six years later in 1837.

Even less imaginable that 40 years later, the still family-owned Gooderham and Worts would be churning out 2.1 million gallons of whiskey and spirits on an annual basis. Or, that it would merge in 1927 with another maker of great Canadian whisky, Hiram Walker.

And surely none of them might have supposed that in 2003, the site would re-emerge as a pedestrian retail village called the Distillery District, offering a mix of high-end design, art and food, attracting both car-weary local types and curious tourists.

The Distillery District is also the site of a superbly beautiful outdoor Christmas

market, which this year runs from November 20th to December 20th. During the market, the cobbled streets are filled with sellers of seasonal food, drink and gifts. In the evenings, sparkling pinpricks of white come from thousands of lights. If you're lucky, it will snow gently while you're there, making you swear that, yes, it is indeed a wonderful life.

Pre-Christmas is the busiest time of year for merchants like Robyn Berman, who does double-duty as the owner of a jewelry studio, Corktown Designs, and the 6,000 square-foot Bergo, which sells higher-end design and decor from Phillippe Starck, Frank Gehry, Karim Rashid and Michael Graves. Younger, trendier brands, such as Umbra and the NYC/Rotterdam-based Kikkerland, are also represented.

Whatever time of year they come, Berman wants customers—including thousands and thousands of tourists—

to walk away with something that will become part of a collection that they'll keep, use and enjoy.

A perennial Christmas favourite are the whimsical made-in-Germany, hand-painted ornaments—an ostrich playing with a clown, a grinning lion—and exquisitely detailed, fair-trade ornaments from a community business in Thailand.

Don't leave the area without popping into Hästens. You may not be able to afford the multi-thousand dollar beds on offer, but you must at least try one, and have a look at this beautifully designed store.

One of the world's oldest bed manufacturers, Hästens was founded in Sweden in 1852. They

still hand-make beds and mattresses out of natural materials such as: flax, horsehair, cotton, wool and Swedish pine.

After you've gotten all sleepy at Hästens, wake up with coffee at Balzac's. It's designed and attractively furnished in the style of the era of its namesake, French novelist Honoré de Balzac, who, having called coffee "a great power in my life," may have frequented such a place to observe the human comedy.

If you wake up with an urge for something spicy, go to El Catrin for traditional and contemporary Mexican food. Expect it to be jumping. Have one of their famous Margaritas—or two—at at your peril. ♦



▲
Balzac's offers
old-world
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SOURCES balzacs.com, elcatrin.ca, thedistillerydistrict.com, torontochristmasmarket.com, hastens.com/en, corksanddesigns.com, kikkerland.com



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candy CHRISTMAS



A favourite holiday treat is the inspiration for
a quality last Christmas in a family home

— + —

BY **JACKIE GLASS** • PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PAUL CHMIELOWIEC**



This Christmas I painted a holiday scene in my home with a brush dripping in vibrant colour! It's bittersweet as we share the last Christmas in our home of 15 years with family and friends. We leave with so many happy memories and look forward to creating new ones when we relocate to the tranquil countryside of the Niagara Escarpment region.

As former editor of *RENO & DECOR* magazine, many of you will be familiar with my home and its many transformations over the years as I strived to adapt its small, heritage-cottage layout and style into a comfortable and spacious home for my growing family. One design element has remained constant, my neutral colour scheme that offers me unlimited design flexibility as no other palette can. Any colour I favour at the moment is guaranteed to play well in a neutral environment. And I love that.

A QUALITY STREET CHRISTMAS

There's no better time of the year than the holiday season to pull out all the stops and get bold with colour, glitz and glam. This Christmas is no exception. The inspiration for my final holiday decor in our family home might surprise you. I owe it to my husband Barry's annual tradition.

When he popped the lid off the tin of his favourite Christmas candy, Quality Street Chocolates, I was instantly committed to the happy, shiny colours of these iconic little morsels wrapped in shimmery foil

and smelling divinely like every Christmas we've ever spent at home with our family and friends.

Taking my cue from every one of the brilliant candy wrappers in the tin, I set out to find Christmas balls, foil wrapping paper, ribbon, vases, glasses and tabletop accents to create one of the most colourful and joyful holiday decors I've ever done in my home. It was fun and easy to find everything I needed to give my cream-and-white decor a dramatic festive look that will shimmer all season long.



COSY COMFORT

The former living room was transformed into a more spacious yet intimate dining room where family and guests could gather, dine and linger in comfort. It all started with the focal point in the room, the grand open-flame log fireplace.

Nothing is more opulent or magical than dining by a roaring fire on a chilly Christmas or New Year's Eve. To maximize the ambiance and enjoyment of the fireplace, I created an intimate seating area with two small-scale upholstered chairs and a tufted ottoman centred in front of the fire.

On the mantel and the shelves flanking the fireplace, my new brilliant holiday colours start to emerge. Gold pots with fresh greenery, sparkling cobalt blue tea lights. A mirrored gold tray on the ottoman begins to tell the bold colour story with a bowl filled with the foil-wrapped candy, chartreuse, fuchsia, bright- blue, silver and gold balls and shimmery beribboned gifts.

Central to the room, the eight-foot dining table with comfortable high-back upholstered chairs is illuminated by a candlelight chandelier dripping with crystals. The centrepiece, a low-mirrored vase arranged with clouds of white hydrangea and green hypericum berries, is the perfect complement to the brightly coloured decorations that dot the room.

A TOAST TO CHRISTMAS PAST AND PRESENT

A pretty mini-bar is set up for my holiday guests on the long sideboard next to the dining table. Brilliant Christmas balls in a glass accent piece, a silver vase with pink carnations, and more foil-wrapped chocolates in a crystal bowl all sparkle with soft decorative light.

Mimicking the sweet treats that inspired the holiday palette, the gifts wrapped in bold, glitzy foil papers add dramatic contrast and festive colour to the all-white flocked Christmas tree. Every surface gets a festive touch. A small mirror-topped chest shimmers with colour, glass, candlelight and bright-pink carnations in a petite silver vase.

As we say goodbye to one home and embrace another, we're happy to celebrate Christmas with family and friends in this well-lived-in and loved room full of happy memories and joyous holiday colours. ♦

SOURCES:

UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS, OTTOMAN, CHRISTMAS TREE, CREAM VASES ON SHELVES, 3 SHELL TREES, winterberrylane.com UPHOLSTERED DINING CHAIRS AND RUG, Elte.com DRAPERY FABRIC, JF Fabrics, jffabrics.com CUSTOM DRAPERIES, Lifestyle Window Fashions, lifestylewindowfashions.com MIRRORED VASE, GOLD VASES, WHITE BERRY WREATH, hofland.com CENTREPIECE ARRANGEMENT, flowerdeco.ca END TABLE, cocoofurnishings.ca DECORATIVE PAINT FINISH, Christina Pepe, 416.573-2331 WALL COLOUR, Benjamin Moore Smokey Taupe CC-490



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Designer Jackie Glass is principal/owner of Jackie Glass Inc., a full-service interior design firm specializing in residential design, decor and renovation, servicing the GTA and surrounding areas. Glass, who's work is nationally recognized, is a regular design expert on Cityline. For more information, visit jackieglass.ca





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holiday GLAM

10 simple ways to add that seasonal touch to your home

BY YVONNE WHELAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY INGRID PUNWANI PHOTOGRAPHY

Like fashion, holiday decor trends change regularly. You don't have to break the bank to achieve a new look, and you needn't throw away favourite decorations. Nothing evokes a sense of nostalgia quite like decorating for the holidays. And while tradition is king, why not mix things up this year by changing the look of your holiday decor? Rework a few things to achieve an entirely different feel.

1

COLOUR STORY

The key to any great holiday style is to choose a colour scheme. Stick to a palette of two to three colours for an end result that looks perfectly pulled together. Don't be afraid to experiment with non-traditional colours like fuchsia. You can always swap it out if you get tired of it.

2

CREATE VIGNETTES

Vignettes make use of those little spots in your home that are often overlooked—like the top of a dining room buffet, an entry table or a shelf above the couch. By grouping like items together and adding a few festive touches, you can give these often-ignored areas extra pizzazz, and take your holiday home to a whole new level.

3

TREE DECORATIONS

Keep it simple by picking a maximum of two to three colours. Place ornaments where they will get the most illumination from the lights on the tree. You can never have too many warm white lights! There is nothing sadder than an under-lit tree. There is nothing sadder than an under-lit tree.

Experiment with inexpensive ornaments from big-box stores. You can get about 100 pieces for \$20 or less.





4

TABLE DRESSINGS

Dress your holiday table with lots of glamour. Be creative. Add flowers, birch, cinnamon sticks, candles and ornaments. Do the unexpected and have fun with it.

5

METALLIC SPRAYS

I adore a can of metallic spray paint. I took classic pieces that I owned and transformed them into gorgeous gold decorations. Have a look around your home to see if you can perform a little seasonal alchemy.

6

MIX STYLES

I love juxtaposing simple elements from nature with some glitter. Don't be afraid of a can of spray-paint to add sparkle, and to give older ornaments a new lease on life.

7

SEASONAL SCENTS

Candles are always welcoming, especially during the holidays. Incorporate a gorgeous candle with a festive scent. A favourite is Voluspa's Vision of Sugar Plum from Indigo.



8

A SECOND TREE

For those of you who are torn between your kids' creativity and styling a tree to your preferences—get a second tree so that your kids can make it their own.

9

DON'T FORGET THE OUTSIDE

Chances are you look out onto your backyard more than the front. So decorate the front for street appeal, and add some pots of foliage and lights in the back for all to enjoy.

10

FAVOURITE TIP

Placing extra ornaments in gorgeous glass bowls or vases adds colour to unexpected places. Hang them from chandeliers or glue them to your wreaths too. Remember to stay with a scheme of two or three colours.♦

Yvonne Whelan is an award-winning Toronto designer, most recently receiving a CDECA award, and an award for Best Design Service 2015 from Build Magazine. Yvonne's career started in fashion with the likes of Alfred Sung, Chaps and Ralph Lauren. With her extensive knowledge of colours and textiles, she's taken her cutting-edge design sense and expertly translated it to home decor. yvonnewhelandesign.com



A PLEASURE TO SERVE

Make party-prepping easier and more enjoyable

For holiday entertaining, a selection of great cheeses becomes the ideal centerpiece for a family gathering, office party or an informal get-together with friends and neighbours. Here are some basic tips to help create a pleasing combination of tastes and flavours to showcase on a party tray or cheese board.

PER PERSON

When preparing the perfect cheese plate or cheese board, you should have approximately 70 to 100 grams per person. You might offer up to six different cheeses from this selection.

- **SHARP CHEESE** (three- to five-year Balderson Heritage Aged Cheddar)
- **CREAMY CHEESE** (St. Andre, Brie, Camembert)
- **BLUE-VEINED CHEESE** (Cambazola, Danish Blue, British Stilton)
- **FRESH** (Goat Cheese, President Brie or Feta Spread)
- **NUTTY** (Gouda, Medium Cheddar)

This provides a pleasing range of different textures, flavours, fat contents and appearances. Arrange in a display that starts with the mildest moving to the sharpest, and serve when the cheese comes close to room temperature.

Cheddar Cheese is always a good starting point because, as it ages and matures, it continually gives you a wide range of flavours to select from. Like a fine wine, Balderson Premium-Aged Cheddar matures and changes with the passage of time.

The flavour becomes richer, fuller and more complex with each additional year of aging. The taste becomes saltier and sharper but always carries the back notes of the original fresh cheddar flavour. The texture changes as well and becomes delicately drier and more crumbly. The aroma becomes

pleasingly deeper and acidic.

Mild cheddars go well with sweeter wines like Chardonnay, sparkling wines or dark Rosés. The softer texture, clean aroma and nuttier flavour of mild cheddar are wonderfully complemented with fresh fruit (grapes, strawberries, kiwi), sweet chutneys and salted nuts.

Medium cheddars are only just beginning to age and they are more suited to drier white wines with slight fruity flavour notes. They pair well with crisp fruits like pears or sweeter varietal apples.

Old and Extra Old cheddars have saltier and sharper tastes so they can be partnered with both reds and whites. They are best suited with slightly more flavourful foods like olives, figs, fruit chutneys, jams or jellies.

Premium-aged cheddars (two to five years) pair well with more

robust and full-bodied wines where the tannins can hold up to the saltier and more acidic taste of the cheese. Similar to extra old for food pairings, you can also add cured meats (prosciutto, bresaola), thin slices of toasted fruit bread or whole-grain artisanal breads (with nuts, seeds, fruit).

Generally, the best complements are a combination of unsalted crackers, plain baguette slices for softer cheeses, toasted baguette slices for harder, aged cheeses or fruit crackers.

Spreadable cheeses, like Balderson's three-year Spreadable Cheddar, also provide another option for added taste and a pleasingly, smooth texture. Served on a crisp bread, they pair well with almost any foods or holiday beverages.

Enjoy!



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Powder Room



SAMANTHA SANNELLA

A master bathroom and powder room get the spa treatment with some glamorous touches

BUILT-IN *luxury*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **URBAN RETREAT HOMES**

Transforming a builder-basic bathroom into a spa-like retreat is one of the best investments a homeowner can make. For a Brampton couple, a dramatic makeover of the master bath and guest powder room added an elegant touch of luxury to their home.

Deciding upon a white-on-white colour scheme for both bathrooms brought a thorough examination of the various shades of white. We started with lavish vanities from GODI's Dancing Room collection. They show pale pink and grey veining in the marble top,

while the vanity's white ash wood has a slightly pale yellow tint in the graining. Using this as inspiration, marble tile with little visible veining was introduced into the design equation.

In total, we selected three different marbles. For the powder room, we used Greek Thassos marble on the floor, and in the master bath Greek Naxos marble was used for the floor and walls. Naxos is a calcite-based marble that has a structure of large beautiful crystals that vary from white to light grey. Thassos looks similar to refined sugar and is more consistently

white than Naxos. In the master bath, Italian Carrera marble, chosen for its visual interest, was used on the shower floor and as a border.

While an off-white and silver wallpaper adds a level of texture to the powder room, in the master bath, damask-patterned wallpaper with a subtle lustre offers an ornate old-world feeling. Best of all, it is vinyl (but you would be hard-pressed to tell!), so steam will not be a problem.

Black and white crystal chandeliers add sparkle and glamour to both bathrooms. Crystal wall sconces rest on each side of the master bath vanity. At the owner's request, LED lighting was added behind the floating crown moulding. Because the LEDs change colour, they enhance the ambiance of the room.

Although the floors are heated, a custom-printed rug adds warmth in the master bathroom. Use your imagination if you decide on a custom rug—patterns and images are limitless, and custom binding is also available. ♦



Master Bath

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Non-traditional holiday accessories add hints of colour, without being overpowering.

IN THE MASTER BATH

↓
Birch bark candles, a luxurious rug, white fur throw on the ash wood and ostrich leather bench, a silver vase with fresh dark-red floral arrangement, and moss balls atop the side cabinet.

IN THE POWDER ROOM

↓
Snow-white floor vases match the violin shapes in the wallpaper, a floral arrangement with white hydrangeas and dark red and pale green cascading flowers underscores the unconventional holiday decor.

SOURCES POWDER ROOM & MASTER

BATH VANITIES (Dancing Room Collection), godibathroom.ca **WALLPAPER:** Powder Room (Mood Collection); Master Bath (Silk Road Collection), crownwallpaper.com **TUB,** bainultra.com **STEAM SHOWER,** thermasol.com **SHOWER RAINHEAD,** aquabrax.com **FAUCETS,** grohe.com **MARBLE,** ciot.com **RUG,** wstudio.ca **DESIGN,** Samantha Sannella (with Dr. Sunil Mehra)

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KIMBERLEY'S GUIDE TO *AREA CARPETS*



KIMBERLEY SELDON



I don't believe anything underscores a beautiful room quite like an area rug. Whether it's a handwoven Oriental, a French needlepoint, a rustic sisal, or a modern loop, an area rug is what I call a desirable necessity. Intensely practical, these self-bound carpets satisfy our craving for comfort and luxury; two things I could never live without. So, for true success underfoot, here are a few things you may want to know about area rugs.

EARLY USE

Prior to the 17th century, carpets made on handlooms were used primarily to cover walls, tables, and chairs. That may seem strange to us but, at that time, carpets provided much needed warmth in cold, stone interiors. Today, of course, area rugs still provide warmth and comfort, although they are used primarily underfoot.

PRACTICAL USES

Area rugs have a multitude of practical purposes beyond providing a beautiful backdrop for a room's furnishings. A well-placed carpet can introduce structure to an open-concept floor plan, one of the most difficult challenges when working with loft spaces. It can also intimately enfold a conversation grouping, direct the flow of traffic, and help define distinct areas of activity. The right area rug will link disparate furnishings, and even provide inspiration for colour schemes. One large area rug or several smaller carpets can hide unsightly flooring such as worn carpeting or linoleum, help stop dirt at entranceways, and anchor individual seating arrangements. Area rugs can also help dampen noise levels within rooms—something that may appeal to you if you have toddlers or teens.

PATTERN

The sheer enormity of choice in selecting a carpet prevents any kind of brief discussion on which type of pattern to choose. However, it is safe to make a couple of generalizations. Modern- and contemporary-styled area rugs tend to involve less pattern, while traditional-styled carpets usually contain more pattern and more intricate detailing.

While all-over patterns visually help to widen and energize a room, geometric patterns, or those with a border, visually enclose an area of space. Choose a central medallion on carpets in open-seating arrangements or centered under glass tables. However, if a space is an awkward shape or proportion, a central medallion will only accentuate that.

SIZE MATTERS

The most common question I am asked regarding area rugs has to do with size. "How big should my area rug be?" In order to determine the maximum size of a room's area rug, try this formula: subtract three feet from the room's width and three feet from the room's length. This allows for a sufficient "frame" of floor around the perimeter of the carpet.

And yes, do place at least the majority of the furniture fully on the carpet. ♦

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CROSSING the FINISH LINE

BY JANE LOCKHART

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN HEINEMAN

How adding the final touches can uplift your space

TIP
Layer items of
similar hues
together



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF SORBARA GROUP OF COMPANIES

Buying a sofa or selecting wood flooring is a big task. Yet, in the end, we select something suitable for our lifestyle and decor scheme. The process can seem long. In the case of a sofa, you sit in several until you find the right feel and look, you choose the fabric, and make the purchase.

Significant furniture pieces like a sofa or whole-house elements like flooring anchor a space to make it feel and function like the room we envision. So why is it that when all those staple items are finally in place, the room still doesn't feel finished? It's one of the biggest decor conundrums.

As trivial as pillows or candles or a vase may seem to the big picture, it's these finishing touches that add the personality, colour and individual style that every room needs.

ACCESSORIES

A short shopping trip to the mall where you grab a few pieces, bring them home, and place them in your work-in-progress room will not result in the "instant style" you expect it to. Woefully under-accessorized spaces are the net outcome of many, not one, long and frustrating trips to a host of over-crowded malls.

How much do you really need to make one room look done? I emphasize purchasing more at the outset and returning what you don't need. Because you don't always know if something will work until you get it home.

Allot a full 20 per cent of the room's budget entirely to final touches so you commit to accessorizing as its own category, much like the flooring or electrical budgets. To finish the room completely, you need to spend money on it.

Many people get close to the end of a home project and experience financial and emotional fatigue. The room is close but not quite done after all the work that went into it. This is frustrating as it's still missing the personality that accessories add.

LAYERING

To style a room well, layering can create individuality and fullness. Layering in design means that there may be a variety of vases grouped together and behind them is a framed

photo leaning up against the wall as the backdrop.

The goal is not to have just a single item or even a grouping of similar pieces but rather to incorporate different shapes and sizes of mixed elements and a few that are not the same at all. Layering adds warmth, interest, texture and, most importantly, personality.

ARTWORK

If you're struggling to finish a room, begin with the artwork. Art adds instant focal points to any space and can pull in colours and textures missing from the larger staple items. For art, think big and strategic as you begin choosing.

What do you want to see on the large wall over the headboard in the bedroom? One large piece in a key location like this draws immediate attention and quickly fills a room. Look for other large walls that can handle over-sized pieces or groups of art together.

Next, select smaller-sized art as "infill" intended for walls that aren't necessarily large or focal but will benefit from a dash of colour. Some walls provide a place to add pieces interesting to you. Note that anything can be considered art: shadow boxes of kids' crafts or photos from your vacation. Always select items that have meaning for you.

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GROUP EFFORT

Once artwork has been determined, other three-dimensional pieces like boxes, baskets, books, candles, and clocks can be grouped and placed together throughout a room. The simple rule of odd numbers—such as three, five and seven—still works when grouping objects. The key word is group.

A long row of accessories can look messy, whereas placing them into a group and leaving space

before the next grouping creates visual harmony. If this is difficult for you, try the designer's favourite trick: add a tray to any surface and put items on it— instant grouping! To make this work, ensure you have enough surfaces to display on—add small tables, ottomans, bookcases, and shelves to accommodate your accessories.

SOFTWARE

Perhaps the easiest way to add a

final flurry of colour and texture is with soft textiles like pillows and throws. A grouping of three pillows in different sizes at one end of a sofa provides layers of colour, texture and shape that connect to other elements within the room.

Remember, accessorizing is the last 20 per cent of a room's design but ultimately it makes the other 80 per cent sing and convey your personal style in an authentic and individual way. ♦

TIP

Employ a range of decorating elements





SOURCES:

MASTER BEDROOM: DRESSER, restorationhardware.com **CHAIRS**, janelockhart.com **OTTOMAN**, janelockhart.com **CARPET**, speersroadbroadloom.com **BUILT-IN COFFEE STATION**, pariskitchens.com **SINK**, kohler.ca **TRAY**, homesense.ca **PILLOWS AND BEDDING**, Drapery: Fabric- Avant Garde masterfabrics.com Tailored by drapesandmore.ca **HEADBOARD**, sunpan.com **NIGHT TABLES**, unionlightingandfurnishings.com **DRAPES**, installed by drapesandmore.ca **END OF BED BENCH**, Jenna Queen Bench; janelockhart.com **CHANDELIER**, unionlightingandfurnishings.com **MASTER BATH: TUB, CABINETS**, pariskitchens.com **DRAPERY**, Avant Garde masterfabrics.com Installed by drapesandmore.ca **FLOORING**, Elegance Escapement polished 18 x 36 and Temple Grey cercantile.com **CHANDELIER**, unionlightingandfurnishings.com

Designer, spokesperson, author and television personality, Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's best-known experts in the world of design and colour. janelockhart.com



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Century Furniture showroom has decor ideas for furniture placement and accessorizing.



Decor shopping can also be a golden opportunity to pick up holiday gifts.



MERRY SHOPPING

BY GLEN PELOSO & JAMIE ALEXANDER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY ARNAL

When renovating or decorating through the holidays, it's time to retail multi-task



Designer Inspired Interiors is filled with gift ideas and holiday decor.

Even at this time of year, some homeowners are either in the midst of a renovation or planning one for early in the new year. Yet, many also have to plan the big meal and host the family over the holidays, not to mention do some last-minute gift buying.

Depending on your situation, here's how you can shop for holiday decor, get gifts for family and friends, and do some renovation homework on furnishings and appliances.

FINISHING TOUCHES ON A RENOVATION

Maybe the floor and walls are up, complete with pot lights, paint and wallpaper; however, the space is far from finished without furniture, art, accessories, and area rugs to make it feel done.

Working in the industry as we do, we know that areas like the King Street East design district are wonderful resources to help get those rooms complete.

We love Century Furniture on King St. East. Based in North Carolina, Century has been a family-run business for generations. Their skilled and dedicated craftspeople take great pride in the high quality of furniture they turn out. King East is their Canadian showroom.

Some items can be purchased from the showroom floor and you can also create custom pieces specific to your needs, in just about any paint finish or fabric you can imagine. A renovated room with great-quality furniture becomes the ideal place where you want to entertain guests and family for the holidays.

'Shop for holiday decor, get gifts for family and friends, and do some renovation homework, all at the same time.'

STARTING A RENO IN THE NEW YEAR

Even during this most hectic season, you need to begin planning next year's renovation now. For instance, redoing a kitchen requires you to make many decisions far in advance of the labour, and especially paramount is selecting the appliances.

If it's been a while since you last bought an appliance, you may be surprised at how much has changed. From gas- and induction-cooking to dual fuel, convection, steam, probes, Wi-Fi-compatible, pre-programming, and aqua-clean, the list of options goes on.

Jenn Air understands that you can't know everything about appliances, both functionally and esthetically, simply by visiting an appliance store, so they created the Jenn Air Experience Centre on King East. You can touch and feel the appliance and organize a time for a chef to take you through the functionality as well.

Many brands have similar showrooms along King East. With the thoughts of creating memorable holiday meals at the top of your mind, you may want to make some appliance selections ahead of time.

GIFT SELECTION AND HOLIDAY DECOR

You'll find something for every decor lover on your gift list at Designer Inspired Interiors. It's located on the lower level of the Century showroom. The space was created to help people in the design trade find accessories, carpets, art, and lighting.

Everything is divided by colours and finishes. If you have decided that red toss cushions are just the thing for your Secret Santa, shopping for them becomes a breeze. The same is true of lamps, accessories, mirrors and metals; all divided so you know exactly what is available and would work for your home.

We also love it because there are seasonal items to make your holiday home far more interesting and unusual. Admittedly, we are biased because we are responsible for shopping the world and finding the most interesting items to fill the store for you to discover.

In a well-planned afternoon, you could complete an entire home so that when holiday guests arrive, they'll never know that just weeks ago you weren't sure you could successfully get everything done. Let alone make it look so spectacular and inviting.

A good shopping strategy is the key to making rooms look like they are straight out of the pages of a magazine.◆

Glen Peloso and Jamie Alexander are co-founders and principals of Peloso Alexander Interiors. They bring 35 years of combined experience to creating environments that merge the client's lifestyle, personality, and architecture. pelosoalexander.com, twitter @glenpeloso & @glenandjamie, Facebook.com/glenpeloso



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burgeoning **BUDGETS**

A healthy decorating budget doesn't mean there isn't room to save

BY **PAUL SEMKULEY**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GILLIAN JACKSON**

Every month several decor magazines arrive at your door, tempting you to take the plunge and redecorate your home. With so many beautiful rooms, filled with great ideas, and accessories, where does one begin? One of the biggest concerns of all is, "Can I afford to make this happen?" Whether it's a condo or house, anything is possible....within reason. And by that I mean budget.

When friends of mine approached me to redecorate a couple of rooms in their home, the first question I asked was, "Do you have a furniture and accessory budget?" Their response was yes, and with a \$20,000 budget we were set to redecorate their living and dining rooms.

As much as decorating your home is one of the most satisfying things you can do to make your living space

more enjoyable, establishing a budget is essential, even if you have deep pockets.

The living room was outdated; it had a navy blue leather sofa, two floral bucket chairs, a yellow slipper chair, and a small silver coffee table. The proportions of the furniture didn't work with the size of the room.

The dining room, with its gold and crystal chandelier, had a '40s-style dining room table with four dining chairs, but it didn't maximize the potential for their entertaining needs. My clients wanted a new contemporary space to reflect their present lifestyle, a space that would accommodate a growing family.

As well as selecting furniture from various retailers, a few custom pieces were ordered, including two tight-back sofas and a dining room banquette. This allowed us to design with the correct dimensions for

both spaces. The slipper chair and dining room chairs were reused and reupholstered with amazing fabrics for added focal points.

At this stage, we'd already spent just over half of the budget. We set out to find the remaining necessary items, which included two side tables and lamps, a coffee table, a 10x14-foot area carpet, a bar cabinet, an occasional table, a small stool, two floor lamps, a glass top for the dining room table, a dining room chandelier, and accessories.

By repositioning their existing artwork and dining room hutch, we were able to provide them with a better flow and an improved use of their space. They now have a beautiful new living and dining room, fully accessorized with a combination of current and family heirlooms.

Budget check: \$17,488.70.

Hiring a professional decorating firm like ours can initially seem like it is going to cost you a lot of money, but let's face it, our client was prepared to spend \$20k and we came in under budget. The \$2,500 savings helped offset our hourly rate. Impressed with our work and fees, our clients hired us to redo the powder and family rooms. ♦



“WHETHER IT’S A CONDO OR HOUSE, **ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE....**
WITHIN REASON. AND BY THAT I MEAN BUDGET.”



Paul Semkuley, a Toronto-based interior stylist and principal of re-source lifestyles, successfully incorporates the client's existing collection of furniture and family treasures in unique and unpredictable ways. ResourceLifestyles.com

SIMPLY WHITE

IS SIMPLY DIVINE

The quest for 2016's colour of the year began in Paris and ended with a nod from the pope

BY SILVANA LONGO



layar

Scan this photo to learn more about the 2016 Colour of the Year from Benjamin Moore.

COLOUR
of the year

Simply White
OC-117

B

enjamin Moore couldn't have revealed their 2016 Colour of the Year in a more appropriate venue. Designers and media gathered at Andrew Richards' ceiling-to-floor, all-white studio, decked out with matching furniture in downtown Toronto. It was clear that all roads led to white that day...Benjamin Moore's Simply White OC-117.

The Colour of the Year is joined by 22 other shades (and yes, there are three more white shades in there!) that encourage using Simply White with a larger palette. With a narrative that illustrates various artists' lives and workspaces—from soft-layered whites to bold colour contrasts that direct the eye—you can easily envision which white will work best for you.

RENO & DECOR's managing editor, Silvana Longo, met up with Benjamin Moore spokesperson Sharon Grech to find out why this designer staple, yet understated hue, is now having its moment in the sun.

"I am excited to give white its moment in the spotlight for 2016."

SHARON GRECH, BENJAMIN MOORE SPOKESPERSON

SL: The Maison et Objet show was held in Paris in January (2015). On the way to the Frank Gehry exhibition at the Fondation Louis Vuitton building, Benjamin Moore Creative Director Ellen O'Neil was awestruck by the actual building and, in that moment, the 2016 stage was set. What convinced you that White was the way to go?

SG: Part of my research has always been following the auto industry and technology. In 2012, white rose above silver as the most popular colour in automobiles and, prior to that, in technological gadgets. That was a significant turning point. Also, different finishes were being applied to white, such as metallic, pearlescent and varying levels of sheen from matte to high-gloss. This has been evident across the industries, from cars to tableware to textiles. This great interest in exploring white across the industries helped to fuel our entire colour teams' convictions.

SL: Described as a warm white (without any yellow tinge), Simply White is said to work well with a warm or cool palette. For a layered white look, what paint shades do you recommend with this year's hue? Which whites would absolutely not work with Simply White?

SG: Simply White layers well with Ballet White OC-9 for a warm look, and I love it with Paper White OC-55 for a cool contemporary look. Although it coordinates well with most whites, I would avoid pairing it with clear whites with a yellow-green tinge, such as Bavarian Cream OC-123.

SL: When the Colour of the Year was announced, and the rationale behind choosing Simply White, I intuited that this decision might come from a need to simplify our oversaturated lives—to create clean and simple spaces to come home to. What is the psychology behind this colour choice and why does the world need white right now?

SG: I agree with you 100 per cent. We are inundated with visual stimulation, on screen especially, from the moment we open our eyes till we close them. It's incredibly inspiring and at the same time so tiring, so we need ways to turn it all

off at times, and white can have that calming effect. I believe white connotes optimism and hope and, like a blank canvas, represents the beginning and an opportunity to self-express, a huge part of our social psyche today.

SL: From the 2016 colour palette, which non-white colours are your favourites and how would you recommend using them?

SG: My personal favourites are Gray Owl OC-52, Morning Sky Blue 2053-70 and Patriot Blue 2064-20. Gray Owl is a perfect neutral gray that can be used anywhere as an all-over backdrop to any of the other accent colours. The crisp, cool and youthful nature of Morning Sky Blue appeals to me as a perfect complement to the white story in a bathroom, bedroom or a light-filled living space. Patriot Blue is a vibrant, yet not "electric" blue that makes a contemporary accent when painted on furniture.

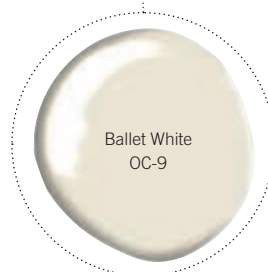
SL: A few weeks before the reveal, Ellen O'Neil said that Pope Francis's visit to the U.S. sort of crowned this year's colour choice. As millions lined the streets to see him, his white housedress was like a beacon ensuring no one lost sight of him.

How will you as Benjamin Moore's spokesperson use Simply White to applaud a colour that is often underplayed yet undeniably a constant in interior design?

SG: I am excited to give white its moment in the spotlight for 2016. This is a great opportunity to educate people with how to choose white and use white, making it a conscious decision and not just a "default." Throughout my career in the paint and colour industry I have seen white cause the most angst among professionals and homeowners alike. So I always laugh when someone says "white is not a colour." To a physicist it may not be a colour but in the home fashion industry it certainly is. Benjamin Moore has over 250 whites. That's a lot of space for a non-colour. To view the 2016 colour palette, go to benjaminmoore.com

SHARON'S PICKS

FOR A LAYERED LOOK

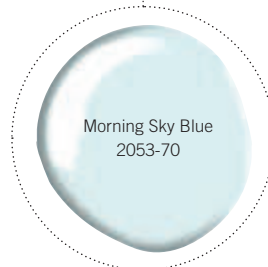


Ballet White
OC-9



Paper White
OC-55

SHARON'S 2016 COLOUR FAVOURITES



Morning Sky Blue
2053-70



Patriot Blue
2064-20



Gray Owl
OC-52



UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Whether you or a loved one has a physical disability, or you're thinking about modifying things so you can stay in your home well into your retirement years, there are a number of renovations that can accommodate changes down the road.

There's a concept in construction known as "universal" or "barrier-free" design. The idea is that when you're building a house from scratch—or undergoing extensive renovations—the finished product should be accessible to all, and be easily modified as needs change. Think of it as future-proofing your home.

It includes things such as making doorways 32 inches wide (or wider) so that someone in a wheelchair or using a walker can easily enter a room. Kitchen and bathroom sinks—and the faucets that flow into them—should also be designed to be accessible by someone in a wheelchair.

We may not all have enough space for a ranch-style bungalow, but any design should keep all floors level, so no sunken living rooms or raised dining areas.



Motion-sensor lighting that is now common on the exterior of a home can also migrate indoors, turning on as someone enters a room so there's no fumbling around in the dark for a switch.

You may even want to go the extra step of lining the walls of a new bathroom with plywood before covering with drywall to make it easier to install grab bars down the road.

This way of thinking also touches on a subject I feel very passionate about; caring for our men and women in uniform who return home from combat with injuries. Six years ago I founded an organization called Renos for Heroes. The government does provide some resources to modify injured veterans' homes, but it's often not enough. We modify veterans' homes so they can carry on post-injury, without too much disruption to their daily lives.

Renos for Heroes relies on contractors volunteering their time, a number of great companies that donate materials, and everyday Canadians who want to help those men and women who've risked their lives—and sometimes lost limbs—to protect us.

To learn more about Renos for Heroes and how you can contribute, visit renosforheroes.com.

JIM'S PICK



These sliding drawers are custom-sized to fit into your existing cabinets, making it easy to reach heavy items or things tucked away at the back. I like them so much I've installed them in my own kitchen. Plus, they're made in Canada.
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JIM CARUK
RENOVATION EDITOR

I look forward to hearing from you and welcome your feedback. Do you have a reno or decor question for our team of experts? Email editorial@renoanddecor.com



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HOME SWEET HOME

Safety features that ensure your home takes you well into your golden years

BY JIM CARUK

There's probably no better feeling than walking through the door to your home at the end of a hard day's work or after a long vacation. You're back in your sanctuary that's been designed and decorated just how you want it. Comforting is probably the word that sums it up best.

Why then, towards the end of our lives, do we yank ourselves out of that comfortable place and end up living in a retirement home?

Our healthcare professionals are increasingly seeing the social and mental benefits of staying at home, surrounded by friends, neighbours, and familiar sights. This is particularly true

if a loved one is suffering from Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia.

THE BATHROOM

Bathrooms are the most important area to focus on. The first step is to consider replacing slippery, hard tile with carpet. But keep in mind that floor mats can be tripping hazards. Stepping in and out of the tub is another risk. Consider a

model with a water-tight door that enables you to step directly in.

A cheaper and maybe more practical option might be replacing the tub with a shower. For those who can't comfortably stand, there are wall-mounted seats that flip down then close out of the way, or stainless steel chairs that you put in place when needed.

Grab bars in the shower and by the toilet are important. Today there are stylish ones so you can avoid that institutional look.

It's easier for someone in a wheelchair to access a wall-mounted sink without cabinets below it. For the faucet, choose long lever-style handles

"BATHROOMS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT AREA TO FOCUS ON WHEN MODIFYING YOUR HOME."



MOEN has a selection of stylish grab bars. homedepot.ca

instead of round ones that you have to squeeze to turn.

From an overall safety perspective, make sure that any electric outlets in the bathroom are GFCI, and consider lowering the household water temperature to avoid the risk of scalding.

THE KITCHEN

Lighting is probably the most important modification to make in the kitchen. In short, you can't have too much, particularly task lighting over cutting and washing areas.

A durable, stain-resistant carpet can help reduce the risk of slipping on wet wood or tile floors.

Rather than mount the lever-style faucet at the rear of the sink where it's hard to reach, mount it at the side. And instead of drawer handles and pulls that you have to clasp, use large D-shaped ones that are easy to slide a hand into. Though if someone in the home suffers from dementia, you might want to use childproofing locks on cabinets and drawers containing knives and cleaning supplies. There are magnetic ones that don't require fiddling with any difficult catches.

If a member of the household uses a wheelchair, there are motorized kitchen cabinets and counters that can be lowered to wheelchair height. While you're wiring those, adjust switches and electrical outlets to be accessible from a seated position. (See my product pick for a Canadian-made shelving option on page 56.)

OVERALL ACCESS

We've all seen those commercials with the chair lifts that ride up the side of a stairway to help people move between floors. But I think we're increasingly going to see more people install home elevators.

If it's not feasible to install a long ramp on the exterior, an elevator with a relatively small footprint is one option for getting inside. But I've also built them on the inside, in one case with a shaft that went from the basement to the second floor.

The hardest part is figuring out where to steal space to put one, particularly in a renovation. But when building new, you can plan for it in advance, and I think it becomes a nice selling feature down the road. I've put them in new builds where the door is the same as any other one in the hall. ♦

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WHEN TO SAVE WHEN TO SPLURGE

Know where to spend design dollars on a kitchen renovation

BY MELISSA DAVIS

Kitchens rank in the top three areas of the home for the greatest return on invest (ROI). If done correctly, the return at point of resale is 80 to 100 per cent of the investment value. However, kitchens also carry the biggest price tags, which can quickly escalate, eating away at the potential forced equity.

When approaching a kitchen renovation or remodel, you can save by salvaging or repurposing elements of the existing kitchen. This may allow for splurges where they count most, providing the opportunity to carefully select where to spend versus where to save.

My top kitchen renovation splurges and saves may help you stretch your renovation budget where it counts most.



BLANCO CULINA faucet



SAVE

CABINETS

If your cabinets are in good shape, the layout works, and the style is fine, consider updating in one of two ways. Send the doors to be professionally painted in a fresh white or a contemporary soft grey. Or keep the boxes and have new doors made. This allows you to update the colour and the door profile while minimizing the investment.

SINK

With sinks, there are two common styles: undermount (mounted under a solid-surface counter material) and countermount (mounted on top of counters like laminate). There was a time when investing in a high-end sink offered a more streamlined look, like square corners and deep bowl, but today the options are vast and pricing is very reasonable.

Blanco is one of my favourites. They offer basically any size, style and configuration you can imagine. No need to spend the entire budget.

SPLURGE

FAUCET

Akin to a piece of jewellery, the faucet can offer instant interest and is a great way to deliver your style message. If your kitchen is modern, selecting a slick single-lever or, alternatively, an eye-catching brass or bronze classic beauty will be worth the investment.

COUNTERS

If you have the budget to update your counters, it's worth it every time. Solid surface composite like Caesarstone and Cambria offer the natural look of stone and incredible wearability with their non-porous properties. This means the wear and staining seen on laminates or even natural marbles simply won't show, which means a greater long-term investment.

HARDWARE

Like the faucet, clean and contemporary cabinet hardware can add major design impact. My advice to clients looking to minimize their expenses is to save on the cabinets and opt for a basic clean style. Then invest in some really special hardware.

My go-to source is Lee Valley Tools. With everything from solid brass ornate pieces to crystal and resin artistic creations, this is a great place to express your personal style, knowing you can change it with ease for a minimal investment. ♦

Toronto-based designer and contractor Melissa Davis is known for her appearances, creative design and reno work produced for various HGTV shows. Her work has also been profiled nationally in print publications. With almost two decades of reno and design experience her firm continues to service clientele throughout Ontario and the GTA, specializing in value-adding ROI and resale consultations. melissadavis.com @melissadavis





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CONDO RENOS ON THE RISE

Solutions for the renovation challenges in condos



BY **BRYAN TUCKEY**

Condo renovations are becoming increasingly fashionable as more and more people across the GTA move to condos.

"The most popular targets of condo renovations are kitchens and bathrooms," says RenoMark renovator and BILD Board member Brendan Charters. "The most common projects revolve around upgrading and customizing finishes like cabinets, backsplashes and countertops.

"Typically we install new finishes in the same locations as the original, although in some instances we are able to get creative and shift things around something that is not easy in condos with common elements, such as plumbing, gas, phone and cable lines, which can't be moved," says Charters of Eurodale Developments in Toronto.

Upgrading flooring, trim and paint are other popular renovations that allow condo owners to improve the esthetic appeal of their suites.

Charters says that the key to a successful condo renovation is in the design, planning, and hiring of the right renovator. It's important to work with a professional contractor who is familiar with the structural and service ele-

ments of condos, someone who can plot a course for condo board approvals and work around potential challenges.

The condo board will want to make sure that your project doesn't affect any of the building's common elements. You must also adhere to the board's renovation-specific by-laws, like sound-transfer standards, as well as the expected time frame for the renovation, before approval is granted.

**"UPGRADING FLOORING, TRIM
AND PAINT ARE OTHER POPULAR
RENOVATIONS THAT ALLOW CONDO
OWNERS TO IMPROVE THE ESTHETIC
APPEAL OF THEIR SUITES."**

Much like renovating a detached home, a major renovation may require building permits. While significant structural renovations are uncommon in condos, permits are still necessary if you're working with electrical or changing plumbing locations. This is where it's important to ensure that you are working with a professional renovator that can help you navigate through the permit process.

The RenoMark website has a searchable database of professional renovators. And you can customize your search by neighbourhood and renovation type.

All companies on the website have agreed to a renovation-specific Code of Conduct, which includes things like providing a written contract; offering a minimum of two million dollars in liability insurance; providing a two-year warranty on all work; and possessing all applicable licenses and permits.

Make sure you ask the renovators lots of questions about their experiences working with condominium projects. Good luck on your renovation.

renomark.ca

Bryan Tuckey is President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) and is a land-use planner who has worked for municipal, regional and provincial governments. He can be found on Twitter (twitter.com/bildgta), Facebook (facebook.com/bildgta) and BILD's official online blog (bildblogs.ca).

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Winter BLOOMS

Amaryllis is the perfect burst of indoor colour



MARK CULLEN



Looking for a mid-winter lift? I have the answer, but you will need to plan now for the colourful blooms that Canadians crave each winter. Conveniently, amaryllis bulbs are available at many retailers across the country this time of year.

They are native to South Africa, but now most amaryllises are grown in the Netherlands, and they are one of the easiest bulbs to bring into bloom indoors. For this reason, they are extremely popular and in high demand. Amaryllises are available in various

shades of red, white, pink, salmon, striped, multi-coloured and some double-flowering varieties.

I recommend that you select the largest bulbs available. Amaryllises are graded according to the circumference of the bulb, measured at the midriff. A small bulb is about 24 to 26 centimetres and the larger bulbs are 32 to 34 centimetres in circumference. A larger bulb yields more flowers and bigger blooms. A bulb gets bigger as it matures and as it matures it produces blossoms more proficiently.

PLANTING

Select a heavy container with good drainage. When in bloom, an amaryllis can be top-heavy causing the container to fall over. A heavy pot helps to solve this issue, as does an amaryllis stake.

Plant the amaryllis bulb in a quality, soilless potting mix. Plant two-thirds of the bulb in the potting mix and allow the top one-third of the bulb to remain above the soil surface. Take care not to damage the dry roots. Press the soil down firmly to securely set the bulb, and water after planting.

Move the potted bulb to a windowsill with direct sunlight. Heat is necessary to stimulate the development of new growth. The ideal temperature is 22C to 24C. Water it in moderation until the stem appears. Once the leaves and buds appear, water it on a more regular basis. You will be amazed how quickly the stems grow.

Healthy amaryllis bulbs will generally flower in seven to 10 weeks. This will depend upon the amount of sunlight available. During the winter months, growth is slower compared to early spring.

AFTER BLOOMING

Once an amaryllis has finished blooming it requires some attention. Cut the flower stalk back to about five centimetres in height. Allow the leaves to continue to grow for at least five months. Water the plant when the potting mix feels dry.

As the leaves grow they produce energy, which the bulb will store for future blooms. Fertilize regularly with a high-phosphate liquid plant fertilizer.

In late September, cut back on watering and allow the leaves to die back. Cut back the foliage and prepare the bulb for storage.

STORING AMARYLLIS BULBS

Clean the bulb gently with water. Dry the bulb for two weeks at room temperature and then store for about 10 weeks in a cool, dry, dark place. At the end of this storage period, you will need to repot the bulb in fresh potting mix and start the cycle again.

Growing your own amaryllis is a satisfying experience. Consider putting one on your Christmas list, or pick up a few large bulbs and pot them up as gifts. You'll need to plant them approximately eight weeks before you would like them to bloom. ♦

Mark Cullen appears on Canada AM every Wednesday morning at 8:40. He is the Lawn and Garden Expert for Home Hardware. Sign up for his free monthly newsletter at markcullen.com

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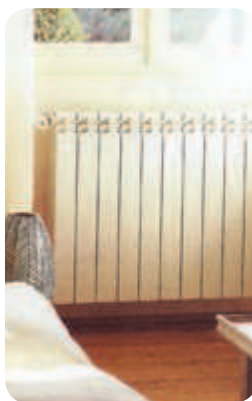


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BATHROOM *budget* BLOWOUT

Planning ahead and sticking to your budget will keep a bathroom reno on track



the key to any successful home renovation, is detailed, advanced planning.

In the 21 years I've been designing and supervising the renovations of hundreds of homes, the thing that has surprised people the most, is what it costs to renovate a modest-sized bathroom. The prevailing thought is that since it's such a small room, the price tag should be similarly small, it should take very little time, and really, they could probably just "wing it" without a pro involved. But the opposite is true.

BY **ROBIN SIEGERMAN** • PHOTOGRAPHY BY **LARRY ARNAL**

REMODEL VS. RENOVATE

First, I have to clarify the term "renovate." That doesn't mean only replacing a vanity, sink faucet, floor tile, shower curtain, light fixture and paint. Everything is staying in the same place, and nothing is being added. That would be a facelift.

A renovation means you're gutting the room, tearing out the tub and plumbing wall, adding fixtures like a second sink or a bidet, new lighting locations and perhaps moving the toilet, window and adding a skylight.

Obviously, the second scenario is going to be a lot more expensive than the first. The reason to do it, is to make

more efficient use of a space as well as to update it, perhaps making it more luxurious. Luxury is expensive.

The first thing clients ask when consulting with me on a bathroom renovation is, "What'll it cost?" And my response is "What's your budget?" I don't say that to deflect, but it's truly impossible for me to tell them what it will cost until I know the level of quality they want, the materials they have in mind and how complex the new configuration will be. By establishing a budget right upfront, you will ensure that whomever you're working with (even if it's a DIY-project) has a frame-

work to work within, rather than showing you products and materials that you can't afford, which will just lead to wasted time and disappointment.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

It's hard to know how to set a budget if you've never done a renovation before and you may be shocked at the price of good quality plumbing fixtures and faucets. You'll have to do some homework and research prices of products before you are ready to get started so you get a realistic idea of pricing and run out of money halfway through the project.

“YOU’LL HAVE TO DO SOME HOMEWORK AND RESEARCH PRICES OF PRODUCTS BEFORE YOU ARE READY TO GET STARTED SO YOU GET A REALISTIC IDEA OF PRICING AND DON’T RUN OUT OF MONEY HALFWAY THROUGH THE PROJECT.”

HERE’S HOW THE PROS DO IT:

- Look at lots of bathroom photos on websites and in magazines and create a style file so you know what you want it to look like.
- Make a list of everything you want to do to the bathroom, and do a rough floor plan sketch of the room with dimensions, showing where the window, door and major plumbing fixtures are located, along with the ceiling height, receptacle and light switch locations and any heating/cooling vents. Be sure to note the height of the window above the finished floor and the size of the window itself.
- Visit retail locations that carry tiles, lighting, vanities, countertops, plumbing fixtures and faucets and get samples or photos along with quotes for everything you like. You’ll need to give the tile store the square footage of the room so they can help you determine how many square feet of tile you’ll need, and that will depend on whether you want tile only on the floor and in the tub/shower enclosure, or up the walls too.
- Talk to a contractor with all the specifications of all the products that you’ve found, to get a quote for the labour and installation.
- Add it all up, add 15 per cent for contingencies (which are unforeseen circumstances, accessories, mirror, towels, etc.) and that’s what it’s going to cost you. If the total far exceeds the number you had in your head before you started the process, find the highest-priced items and look for lower-priced alternatives to trim the cost. But beware of using bargain-basement-priced plumbing fixtures. If the faucet in your shower goes, you can’t just replace the handles and shower head, you have to open up the whole plumbing wall and replace the hidden valves and reconnect the pipes from it to the handles, shower head, tub spout, and tiles, which could cost you thousands.

DOT THE IS AND CROSS THE T’S

There is no shortcut to getting to this final cost. If you don’t want to blow your financial brains out on your bathroom renovation, you must do this before the contractor is ever consulted so your costs don’t spiral out of control while the project is in progress.

If this all seems like too much work,

it is. This is what the professionals do for you, which is why you pay them a substantial amount of money to cover the time it takes to gather all this information into a proposal for your approval before the project begins.

Skip this kind of detailed planning, and you’ll end up with a big fat pain in your wallet.♦



Robin Siegeman is a 20-plus year veteran of the home design and renovation business, an international design award winner, conference speaker, and author of Renovation Bootcamp: Kitchen – Design and Remodel Your Kitchen Without Losing Your Wallet, Your Mind or Your Spouse. For a free kitchen renovation planner, visit renovationbootcamp.com/free-kitchen-ebook





Design Intervention



Toronto's top designers and decorators held free 15-minute consultations with Fall Home Show visitors at our popular *RENO & DECOR* booth. The eye-catching and inspired "living space" was created by HGTV personality and Toronto-based designer Dvira Ovadia.

The UpCountry furniture company supplied a selection of furnishings and accessories with which Dvira created stunning vignettes and, ultimately, a comfortable space for our expert designers to consult in.

Highlights included a dramatic rope light hung from the cavernous ceiling

of the Better Living Centre over a gold and glass end table. Dvira's mother, artist Rachel Ovadia, created a stunning mural, custom-printed by Muralunique. Bousada Flooring supplied beautiful hardwood floors, Royal Light provided a pendant and a chandelier, and the walls were painted with Evening Dove -2128 by Benjamin Moore.

We're happy to report that hundreds of people received professional assistance from design and decor experts at the *RENO & DECOR* booth. For those that simply passed by, we hope they too found some warmth and inspiration to carry them into the winter.

A SPECIAL **THANK YOU** TO ALL THE DESIGNERS AND COMPANIES WHO PARTICIPATED



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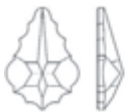
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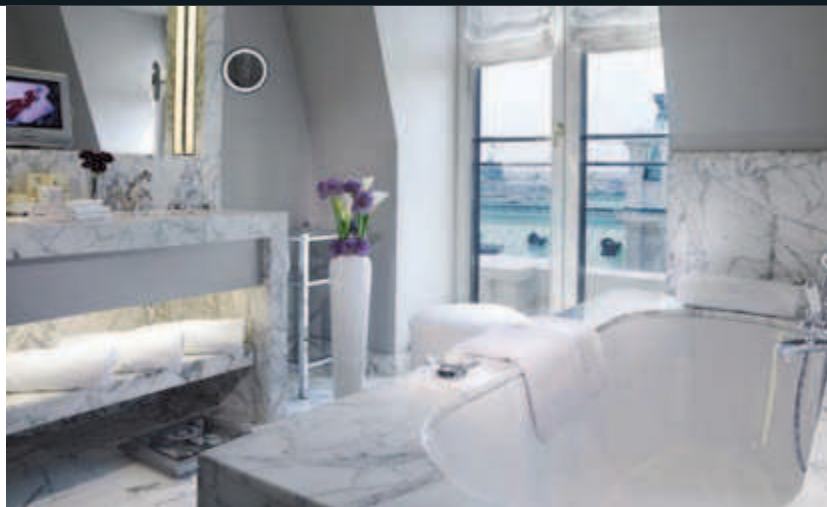
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416.422.5276
avonlearenovations.com

B
Bachly Construction
Member Since: 2002
Bolton
905.951.3100
bachly.com

Balance Building Group
Member Since: 2013
Concord
905.669.4440
balancebuildinggroup.com

Balmoral Construction Group
Member Since: 2014
Richmond Hill
416.779.8761

Balmoral Custom Homes Ltd.
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.482.5000
balmoralcustomhomes.com

Barbini Developments Inc.
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.385.8883
amedeobarbini.com

Barry's Construction & Renovation Ltd.
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
1.800.438.5192
bcrld.ca

Bayden Homes
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
416.818.8143
bayden.ca

Baymanor Homes
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.781.2866
baymanorhomes.com

Bayview Projects Contracting
Member Since: 1998
North York
416.730.8506
bayviewprojects.com

Belyea Bros. Ltd.
Member Since: 2003
Toronto
416.425.1200
belyeabrothers.com

Benim Contracting (205523 Ontario Ltd.)
Member Since: 2006
Etobicoke
416.737.5897
benimcontracting.ca

Binns Kitchen + Bath Design
Member Since: 2009
Toronto
905.509.5555
binns.net

Birnie Current Safe
Member Since: 2013
Mississauga
905.569.1818
ismyhomesafe.ca

Blueprint Renovations
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.878.3272
blueprintrenovations.com

Blueprint Properties Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Toronto
416.731.2285
blueprintpropertiesinc.ca

Bramson Construction
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
416.625.3943
bramsonconstruction.com

Brian T. Fletcher Construction Co. Ltd.
Member Since: 1995
Etobicoke
416.626.7746
fletcherconstruction.ca

Bridge Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
647.987.2919
bridgecontracting.ca

Broadway Flooring Centre Ltd.
Member Since: 2009
Toronto
416.730.1830
broadwayfloors.com

Brock Doors & Windows Inc.
Member Since: 1999
Brampton
905.791.2850
brockwindows.com

Bryant Renovations
Member Since: 2000
Toronto
416.260.0818
bryantrenovations.com

BVM Contracting
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
416.265.9602
bvmcontracting.com

C
Calado & Lima Home Improvement Inc.
Member Since: 2011
York
416.782.0110
caladolima.ca

Cando Pro Roofing
Member Since: 2011
Thornhill
416.629.2446
condoproroofing.com

Canduit Contracting Inc.
(Electrical Specialists)
Member Since: 2011
Mississauga
647.236.3050

Canlik Kitchens
Member Since: 1996
Scarborough
416.412.7828
refaceyourkitchen.com

Capital Floors Inc.
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
416.536.2200
capitalfloor.com

Carick Home Improvements (Carick Building Products Ltd.)
Member Since: 1998
Toronto
416.781.6671
carickhome.com

Carmelin Design + Build
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
647.292.7682
carmelin.ca

Caruk Hall Homes
Member Since: 1995
Toronto
416.546.8602
carukhall.com

Celcon General Contractors Ltd.
Member Since: 2006
Markham
905.472.8281
celconcontractors.com

C6GC Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
416.625.2851
c6gcconstruction.com

Chaplin Home Improvements Ltd.
Member Since: 2008
Markham
416.904.6909
chaplinhomeimprovements.com

Chislett Asphalt Roofing Ltd.
Member Since: 1986
Vaughan
905.738.9433
chislettroofing.com

Clarke Basement Systems
Member Since: 2007
Markham
905.642.4861
wetbasements.ca

Classic Homestyles Inc.
Member Since: 2011
Markham
905.477.0441
classichomestyles.ca

Clemmensen & Associates Ltd.
Member Since: 1982
Weston
416.747.6266

Cliff and Evans Ltd.
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
416.628.7186
cliffandevans.com

Cochren Homes Ltd.
Member Since: 2003
Oakville
905.842.2462
cochrenhomes.com

Cohn Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 1991
Mississauga
905.569.1349

Colewood Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 1991
Toronto
416.252.2226

Conquest Carpet & Flooring (Division of Trust Flooring)
Member Since: 1995
North York
416.745.8518
trustflooring.com

Core Insurance Claims Contracting Inc.
Member Since: 1993
Weston
416.740.9400

Craiglee Home Improvements Ltd.
Member Since: 1997
Scarborough
416.540.0503
craigleehomes.net

Crina General Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 2002
Concord
905.738.7930

D
Dalrose Homes
Member Since: 1986
Orangeville
519.938.8417

Dalmar Columns Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.747.6945

Darmaga Hardwood Flooring Ltd.
Member Since: 2004
Richmond Hill
905.770.1900
darmaga.com

Dave's Duct Cleaning
Member Since: 2013
Whitby
416.668.4607
davesducts.com

DCAM Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2007
Oakville
905.847.3636
dcamhomes.com

Decksterity Carpentry Cont. Ltd.
Member Since: 2012
Richmond Hill
905.737.9905
decksteritycarpentry.com

DeMarco Mechanical Services Inc.
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.820.9155

Design-Spec Building Group Ltd.
Member Since: 2007
Vaughan
905.760.2225
designspecgroup.com

Domilya Group
Member Since: 2013
Oakville
647.300.0282
domilyagroup.ca

Dominion Roofing
Member Since: 1957
Toronto
416.789.0601
dominionroofing.com

Doric Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
416.226.0724
dorchomes.ca

DreamBuilders (2004) Ltd.
Member Since: 1998
Toronto
416.241.8805
dreambuilders.ca

Dundene Homes Inc.
Member Since: 1999
Toronto
416.863.6116
dundenehomes.ca

Dupont Custom Homes O/A 1740338 Ontario Ltd.
Member Since: 2013
Markham
416.209.0029
dupontcustomhomes.com

Duracon Construction Services & Dura Painting
Member Since: 2009
Stouffville
416.688.9191
duraconconstruction.com

E
Eggersmann Toronto Kitchens/Home Living
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.420.9565
eggersmantoronto.ca

Electric Avenue, Inc.
Member Since: 2015
Bolton
1.888.662.4449
electric-avenue.ca

Elite Construction & Renovations
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.888.8417
elite-construction.ca

Elle & Co Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.710.4419
ellecoinc.ca

E-M Air Systems Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Concord
905.738.0450
emair.ca

Enmar Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
647.351.2221
enmarhomes.ca

Equinox Development Inc.
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
416.866.8966
equinoxdevelopment.ca

Erindale Painting & Decorating Inc.
Member Since: 2011
Concord
289.588.1810
erindalepainting.ca

Esto Construction Co. Ltd.
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.752.3702
estoconstruction.ca

Eurodale Developments
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.782.5690
eurodale.ca

Fairmont Properties Ltd.
Member Since: 1994
Aurora
905.841.6161
fairmontproperties.ca

Fairside Homes and Renovations Ltd.
Member Since: 2004
Toronto
416.721.2224
fairsidehomes.com

Fifthshire Homes Ltd.
Member Since: 1985
Concord
905.660.7415
fifthshire.com

Foamit.ca Spray Foam & Blown-In Insulation
Member Since: 2012
Mississauga
416.893.8712
foamit.ca

Galle Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Etobicoke
416.792.7591
galleconstructioninc.com

Garage Door Depot
Member Since: 2014
Mississauga
416.424.3400
garagedoordepot.ca

George Kent Home Improvement Ltd.
Member Since: 2014
Mississauga
905.670.2707
georgekent.ca

Georgian Custom Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Mississauga
905.405.7275

Godel Construction
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.484.6096
godelconstruction.com

Golden Bee Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.768.4771
goldenbeehomes.com

Goldribbon Homes
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.221.3335
goldribbonhomes.com

Gorman-Mazzon Ltd.
Member Since: 1986
Richmond Hill
416.818.5049

Greening Homes Ltd.
Member Since: 2013
Toronto
416.532.6811
greeninghomes.com

Grieve Home Maintenance Ltd.
Member Since: 2004
Burlington
905.336.0088
grievehome.com

Hadley-Irvine General Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 2010
Georgetown
416.910.8419
hadley-irvine.com

Hall Developments
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.254.5114
halldevelopments.com

Handyman Connection
Member Since: 1999
Richmond Hill
905.884.7678
york.handymanconnection.com

Hardcore Renos
Member Since: 2015
Mississauga
416.433.5737
hardcorerenos.com

Harlequin Homes Ltd.
Member Since: 2009
Aurora
416.771.8597
harlequinhomes.ca

Harper House Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 2002
Uxbridge
416.266.7896

Heidan Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.543.2945
heidanconstruction.com

Heres Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 2007
Gormley
416.738.1895
heresrenovationsinc.com

Home Art Building Group Ltd.
Member Since: 2014
Mississauga
416.888.0265
home-art.ca

Home Corp Services Inc./ Montwest Mechanical Inc.
Member Since: 2003
Vaughan
905.660.8886
homecorpsservices.com

Home Editions Ltd.
Member Since: 2000
Toronto
416.410.7844
homeeditions.com

Home Reno Direct
Member Since: 2015
Mississauga
905.564.9989
homerenodirect.com

Hotwire Electric
Member Since: 2013
Vaughan
416.553.5533
hotwire-electric.com

House Tune Up
Member Since: 2012
Oakville
416.837.5242
housetuneup.ca

Huntington General Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Woodbridge
647.258.9315
huntingtongeneralinc.ca

Inspire Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2008
Caledon
416.765.2020
inspirehomes.ca

Integrity Contracting
Member Since: 2012
North York
647.738.4395
integrityhomeadditions.com

Invictus Renovations Ltd.
Member Since: 2004
Toronto
416.893.3967

J. Gray Renovations
Member Since: 2004
Thornhill
416.520.6366
grayreno.ca

Jackson & Associates Inc. Design - Build - Renovate
Member Since: 1998
Toronto
416.693.7870
jacksoninc.ca

JAGG Enterprizes Incorporated
Member Since: 2007
Caledon
905.838.5244
jaggenderprizes.ca

JD Nelson and Sons Ltd.
Member Since: 2009
Ajax
647.223.1245

Josh Developments (1996) Ltd.
Member Since: 1988
Toronto
416.318.4899

Keystone Interiors Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Woodbridge
905.850.0474
keystoneinteriors.ca

Keystone Ridge Developments Ltd.
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
416.901.9426
keystoneridge.ca

Khachi Design Group Ltd.
Member Since: 2012
Oakville
905.469.8118
khachi.com

Kilbarr Hill Construction Limited
Member Since: 2007
Markham
416.484.0701
kilbarrhill.com

Kingsway Carpets & Blinds Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.253.0880
kingswaycarpetsandblinds.com

Kingsway Home Improvements Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
647.505.8669
kingswayhomeimprovements.com

Kingsway Home Renovations
Member Since: 2014
Etobicoke
416.702.0762
kingswayhome renovations.com

Komon Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Burlington
647.402.5740
komonhomes.com

Lakeland Builders Inc.
Member Since: 2005
Concord
905.761.6660
lakelandbuilders.com

Leonardi Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 2010
Mississauga
905.277.9085
leonardiconstruction.com

Leprevo Homes
Member Since: 2012
Etobicoke
647.893.3283
leprevo.ca

Leslieville Home Improvements Div. of Nagin Construction
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.465.9410

Let It Rain Ltd.
Member Since: 2003
Mississauga
905.795.0212
letitrain.ca

Lewitt Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2004
Toronto
416.383.1221
lewittconstruction.com

Lifestyles By Barons Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Halton Hills
905.872.5777
lbbdesigns.ca

LJ Post Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 1994
Scarborough
416.298.0517
ljpostconst.com

Lokert General Plumbing
Member Since: 2014
Burlington
905.634.6567

Lou's Home Improvements
Member Since: 2008
Toronto
416.931.2664
loushomeimprovements.com

MacPherson Builders Ltd.
Member Since: 1995
Richmond Hill
905.882.8000
macphersonbuilders.com

Mane Construction Group Inc.
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.821.2622
maneconstruction.ca

MapleBridge Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 2010
Maple
416.540.7558
maplebridgeconstruction.com

Markay Developments
Member Since: 1996
Oakville
905.257.1220
markayhomes.com

Marmara Ltd.
Member Since: 2013
North York
647.864.1062
marmaracontracting.com

Martino Contractors Ltd.
Member Since: 1987
Concord
905.760.9894
martino HVAC.com

Master Edge Homes
Member Since: 2009
Markham
905.201.1054
masteredgehomes.com

Mather Fine Homes a division of Beechwood Investments Development Inc.
Member Since: 1987
Toronto
416.482.9001
matherfinehomes.com

Mattu Building Specialists Inc.
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
647.273.4847
mattu.ca

Mazenga Building Group Ltd.
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
416.483.4105
mazenga.com

Men At Work General Contractors Ltd.
Member Since: 1994
Toronto
416.763.0763
menatwork.ca

Method Homes
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
416.548.5988
methodhomes.ca

Metropolitan Sheet Metal Limited/ MetroAir Home Comfort Solutions
Member Since: 1959
Brampton
905.792.5076
metroair.ca

Mills Design Build
Member Since: 2004
Oakville
905.847.7104
millsdb.ca

Modified Homes
Member Since: 2013
Mississauga
905.301.2657
modifiedhomes.net

Modular Home Additions Ltd.
Member Since: 2004
Toronto
416.759.4663
modular.ca

Modus Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.696.7856
modushomes.com

Monarch Kitchen & Bath Centre
Member Since: 2013
Pickering
905.686.2001
mkbi.com

Myhaven Greenview Homes
Member Since: 2004
Richmond Hill
905.508.8075
greenhomebuilderontario.com

New Steel Roofers Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Hamilton
905.543.1623
newsteelroofers.com

Norseman Construction & Development Ltd. / Norseman Group
Member Since: 2008
Toronto
647.435.5433
norsemanconstruction.ca

Northern Edge Construction Services Ltd.
Member Since: 1997
Scarborough
416.269.1900
noredge.com

Nostco Construction
Member Since: 2009
Markham
905.604.4511
nostco.com

Novacon Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2015
Pickering
416.881.7176
novacon.ca

Nuside Waterproofing Ltd.
Member Since: 2009
Toronto
416.622.7000
nusidegroup.com

Ommert Carpentry & Renovations
Member Since: 2006
Ajax
416.843.5716
ommertrenovations.com

Ontario Basement Lowering (Div. of AKG Precision Foundation Group Inc.)
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
416.494.3999
basementlowering.com

Ontario Flooring Inc.
Member Since: 2008
Woodbridge
905.850.9944
ontarioflooring.com

Ontario Home Improvements Ltd.
Member Since: 2014
Woodbridge
905.663.6060
ontariohomeimprovements.ca

Ontario HVAC General Contractor Ltd.
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
416.831.8646

Ontario Screen Systems Inc./ Phantom Screens
Member Since: 1995
Mississauga
905.624.0824
phantomscreens.ca

P.J. Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 1996
Etobicoke
416.621.1041

Pantera Building Contractors
Member Since: 2011
Toronto
416.284.0077
panteracontracting.ca

Penguin Basements Ltd.
Member Since: 2014
North York
416.633.7180

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Perma-Wood Solariums and Additions
(1025722 Ontario Inc.)
Member Since: 1994
Markham
905.475.5460
permawood.com

Pine Glen General Contractors Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Oakville
905.827.1117
pineglen.ca

Plan A Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 2013
Toronto
416.873.6810
planabuilds.com

Premier Quality Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
905.286.0303
premier-renovations.com

Prep 'n Sell
Member Since: 2014
Mississauga
416.201.1010
prepsell.com

PROBUILT
Member Since: 1997
Bolton
905.533.4663
probuilt.ca

Progressive Reno & Contracting
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.831.6717

Pro-Land Landscape Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2011
Brampton
905.799.6100
proland.ca

Quality Sterling Group
Member Since: 1965
Vaughan
905.585.4800
sterlingflooring.ca

Queensgate Homes Inc.
Member Since: 1992
Woodbridge
905.264.0600
queensgatehomes.com

Ragno Electric
Member Since: 2000
Brampton
905.793.4663
ragnoelectric.com

Ram Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 2012
Richmond Hill
905.773.0507
ramcon.ca

Raywal Limited
Member Since: 1957
Thornhill
905.889.6243
raywal.com

Regal Construction & Renovations Co. Ltd.
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.994.8183
regalconstruction.ca

Renditions Design Build Ltd.
Member Since: 2011
Terra Cotta
416.606.9954
renditionsdesignbuild.com

Renoco Group
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
416.402.4843
renoco.ca

Reno King Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 1997
Scarborough
416.821.9376
renokingcontracting.ca

Renovation Experts/ Basement Experts
Member Since: 2009
Richmond Hill
905.884.8585
renoexperts.ca

Retreats Inc.
Member Since: 2009
Georgetown
647.237.3878
homeretreats.ca

Ridgestone Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Woodbridge
905.264.7880
ridgestonehomes.com

Rivet Development Corp.
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
416.464.2748
rivetdevelopment.com

Rosehill Wine Cellars Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Mississauga
905.275.0979
rosehillwinecellars.com

Roswell Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.621.3286
roswellconstruction.net

Roussel Eavestrough Distributors Limited
Member Since: 2011
Scarborough
416.438.4344
rousseleavestrough.com

Royal Home Improvements
Member Since: 1997
Mississauga
416.236.4400
royalhomeimprovements.ca

RS Homes
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.480.0282
rshomes.ca

Rulestone Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 1991
Toronto
416.694.6016

Salerno Custom Homes
Member Since: 2011
Mississauga
905.602.8611
salerno.ca

Sandgate Construction Inc.
Member Since: 1991
Aurora
905.841.6440
sandgateconstruction.com

Scottsdale Contracting Inc.
Member Since: 2002
Toronto
416.520.8858
scottsdalecontracting.ca

Serenity Homes
Member Since: 2009
Toronto
416.551.6220
serenity-homes.ca

SeyernWoods Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2008
Toronto
416.483.2941
seyernwoods.com

Sheppard Pearl Waterproofing & Renovation (1450434 Ontario Inc.)
Member Since: 2008
Scarborough
416.677.0888
iwaterproofing.ca

Silverado Custom Homes
Member Since: 2013
North York
416.823.7018
silveradocustomhomes.com

Silverpoint Fine Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2008
Toronto
416.995.4119
silverpointfinehomes.com

Simple Solutions Design & Build Contractors Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Caledon Village
905.799.9199
simplesolutions-renovations.ca

SNR Contracting Ltd.
Member Since: 2014
Richmond Hill
647.866.7859
snrcontracting.ca

Sosna Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Richmond Hill
416.452.5259
sosna.ca

South Light Design/Build Inc.
Member Since: 2010
Toronto
416.457.4640
southlight.ca

Space Converters Ltd.
Member Since: 2005
Mississauga
416.219.5533
spaceconverters.com

Spalding, K. Construction Inc.
Member Since: 1996
Newmarket
905.898.5503

Span-Co General Contracting Services Ltd.
Member Since: 2008
Markham
905.475.6282
spanco.ca

SR Contracting Inc.
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.827.6624
srcontracting.ca

Stellar Homes Inc.
Member Since: 2011
Aurora
905.726.7778
stellarhomesinc.ca

Stockridge Construction Ltd.
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.964.6800

Stonemill Developments Inc.
Member Since: 2008
Oakville
905.847.5900
stonemill.ca

Super 7 Group
Member Since: 2005
Sharon
416.688.5599
super7group.com

Superior Construction - Luxury Homes Inc. (o/a Pahlbod Homes)
Member Since: 2014
Thornhill
905.597.7070
pahlbod.ca

Superior Quality Renovations & Construction Inc.
Member Since: 2003
Toronto
416.441.0084
sqrc.ca

Sure Seal Crack Injections Co. Ltd.
Member Since: 2006
Toronto
416.878.7295
crackinjections.com

Sustain Electrical Services
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
647.505.0692

SweetHomeSpaces
Member Since: 2012
Mississauga
647.299.3871
sweethomespaces.com

T. Sena Construction and Management Inc.
Member Since: 2006
Woodbridge
905.850.1010

Tailored Living of Central
Toronto
Member Since: 2013
Toronto
416.631.7272
tailoredliving.com

Templehouse Renovations
Member Since: 2000
Toronto
416.932.9099
templehouse.com

The City Wide Group Inc.
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
416.283.5500
citywidegroup.com

The Construction Group
Member Since: 2005
Toronto
416.335.7911
theconstructiongroup.ca

The English Carpenter
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
647.269.3140
theenglishcarpenter.com

The Fifth Wall
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.509.5512
thefifthwall.ca

The Gatti Group Corp.
Member Since: 2009
Vaughan
905.566.9072
thegattigroupcorp.com

The Toolbox Group Inc.
Member Since: 2005
Whitby
416.991.2229
thetoolbox.ca

The Urban Blueprint Inc.
Member Since: 2014
Toronto
647.479.5381
urbanblueprint-developments.com

Three Season Complete Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 2014
Belfountain
647.968.6455

Timberlea Construction and Roofing Ltd.
Member Since: 2007
Mississauga
905.602.5959
timberleaconstruction.com

Timeless Millwork
Member Since: 2014
Concord
905.760.1985
timelessmillwork.com

TIPEQ Inc.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.623.8159
tipeqrenovations.ca

Tishler Custom Homes Ltd.
Member Since: 2012
Toronto
416.785.0060
tishlerhomes.com

Toronto Custom Concepts Inc.
Member Since: 2013
Toronto
416.806.2232
torontocustomconcepts.com

Total Renovations Inc.
Member Since: 2000
Toronto
416.694.2488
totalrenovations.com

Town Square Developments Inc.
Member Since: 2005
Woodbridge
905.850.9367
townsquaredevelopments.ca

Travisana Kitchen + Interiors
Member Since: 2015
Toronto
647.748.8874
travisanakitchens.com

Trudel & Sons Roofing Ltd.
Member Since: 1995
Stouffville
905.642.3515
trudelflooring.com

Turnkey Site Solutions
Member Since: 2014
North York
416.240.7666
turnkeyss.ca

U.K. Construction
Member Since: 1996
Scarborough
416.266.5333
ukconstruction.ca

Uni-Tech Windows Mfrs. Inc.
Member Since: 2015
Woodbridge
905.856.4011
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 A REAL TWEET:



[REDACTED]
@ [REDACTED]

**“I hate
when it get
cold out cuz
then all the
homeless
people get
on the bus ☹️”**

5:04 PM - 20 Oct 2012

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BY SILVANA LONGO

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1 cobistyle Grapes pillow, cotton velvet with feather fill. 20" square, \$65; cobistyle.com **2 Velvet Arches Mint** 16x36" \$562; autilfinelins.com **3 Washed Luster Velvet Duvet Cover + Shams**, \$40 - \$205; westelm.com **4 Silk Velvet Tufted Bench** \$2,230; autilfinelins.com **5 Cullen Apartment Sofa**, \$3,399; crateandbarrel.ca **6 Velvet Stocking**, \$11.99; bouclair.com **7 Carlton Chair**, \$2,700, barrymorefurniture.com **8 Bacharach Swivel Chair**, \$2,750 US; jonathanadler.com **9 Dahlia Dining Chair**, \$870; cobistyle.com **10 Figueroa armchair**, available in Emerald, Grey and Cream, \$2,852; insiderland.com



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